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Message Text

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72
ACTION AF-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 EB-11 /025 W
---------- 061891
R 231510Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4270
DHEW WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LISBON

UNCLAS TUNIS 0425

DEPT FOR AF/N

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TBIO, EAID, TS
SUBJECT: GOT INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING SOPHISTICATED MEDICAL FACILITY

1. GOT AT HIGHEST LEVEL HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN HAVING U.S. EQUIPMENT AND STAFF TO ESTABLISH AND OPERATE HIGH-CLASS MEDICAL FACILITY IN TUNISIA CAPABLE OF PROVIDING MEDICAL SERVICES FOR FOREIGN TOURISTS (ROUGHLY 800,000 A YEAR) AND RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC AND OTHER FOREIGN COMMUNITY AS WELL AS TUNISIANS. AMERICAN MEDICAL CLINICS, INC. (AMC), UNION BANK SQUIRE, ORANGE, CALIFORNIA, HAD DISCUSSED WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE DOCTORS HERE POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION IN ESTABLISHMENT OF 200-BED CLINIC WHICH WOULD APPEAR TO MEET GOT DESIRE. AS WE UNDERSTAND PROJECT, IT WOULD BE BASICALLY ECONOMICALLY SELF-SUPPORTING, LARGELY FINANCED LOCALLY WITH POSSIBLY SOME AMC EQUITY PARTICIPATION, AND STAFFED WITH LOCAL DOCTORS AND MEDICAL STAFF SUPPLEMENTED BY AMC HOSPIITAL ADMINISTRATOR AND OTHER STAFF AS REQUIRED. AMC WOULD PROVIDE MANAGEMENT EXPERTISE IN ESTABLISING CLINIC AND IN OPERATING IT. EMBASSY NOT CERTAIN, HOWEVER, WHETHER AMC STILL INTERESTED IN PROJECT IN TUNISIA; CHAIRMAN DE CARVALHO OF AMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS NOT REPLIED TO TWO EMBASSY LETTERS, LAST ONE SENT DEC 10, AND HAS NOT WRITTEN TO LOCAL CONTACT FOR SOME MONTHS.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF USDOC WOULD DETERMIN WHETHER AMC STILL INTERESTED IN TUNISIA PROJECT. WOULD
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ALSO APPRECIATE ANY GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON AMC WHICH

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MIGHT BE USEFUL IN ESTABLISHING ITS QUALIFICATIONS TO ESTABLISH A PROJECT OF THIS KIND. IF AMC IS NO LONGER INTERESTED, USDOC ASKED TO BRING GOT INTEREST TO ATTENTION OF OTHER US MEDICAL GROUPS THAT MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN HELPING ESTABLISH A SUITABLE FACILITY IN TUNISIA ALONG THE LINES OF PARA ONE. MIGHT BE ADVISABLE BRING MATTER TO ATTENTION OF OTHER GROUPS EVEN IF AMC STILL INTERESTED. SUGGEST USDOC MAY APPROACH AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION TO SEEK POSSIBLE U.S. PARTICIPANTS. POSSIBLE GROUPS SHOULD BE ASKED TO COMMUNICATE THEIR INTEREST DIRECTLY TO EMBASSY WHICH IN TURN WILL SEEK TO PASS IT ON TO APPROPRIATE TUNISIAN SPONSOR. FYI PART OF DIFFICULTY OF IMPLEMENTING AMC PROJECT WE BELIEVE MAY HAVE BEEN ABSENCE OF SUITABLE BUSINESS-ORIENTED MEDICAL SPONSOR CAPABLE OF PUTTING PROJECT TOGETHER. END OF FYI.

3. FOR EMBASSY LISBON: WE UNDERSTAND AMC WAS PARTICIPATING WITH PORTUGUESE COMPANY ALGARVESOL IN ESTABLISHING CLINIC IN SOUTHERN PORTUGAL SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED IN MID-1972. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON SUCCESS OF THIS PROJECT. SEELYE

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Draft Date: 23 JAN 1974
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
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